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CONTENTS

LAOS: More government military setbacks. (Page 1)

EAST GERMANY: Domestic propaganda attacks West Germany's Social Democratic Party. (Page 2)

UGANDA: Plotting against Amin alleged. (Page 4)

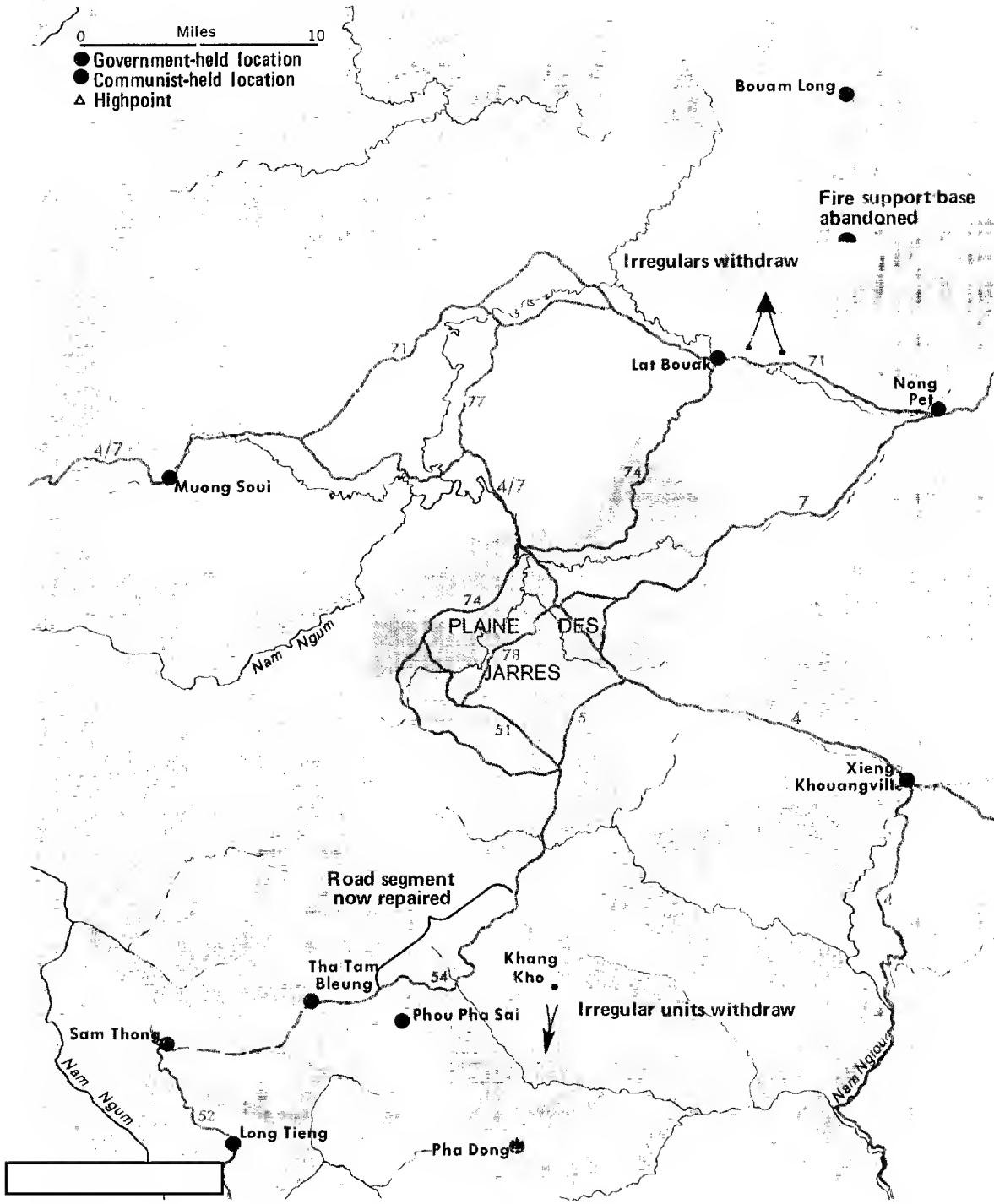
ROMANIA: Austerity campaign shaping up. (Page 6)

HAITI: President initiates cabinet shakeup. (Page 7)

USSR-SOMALIA: Military aid (Page 8)

INDONESIA: Foreign aid request (Page 8)

LAOS: PLAINE DES JARRES AREA



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25X1

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LAOS: The Communists have inflicted fresh setbacks on irregular forces near the Plaine des Jarres.

Heavy artillery attacks, followed by ground assaults by elements of two North Vietnamese regiments on 14 November, forced Vang Pao's task force to give up positions around Khang Kho, seven miles south of the Plaine. Communist troops ambushed the irregulars as they withdrew toward the government base at Pha Dong, and preliminary reports indicate that government casualties are high.

North of the Plaine, continued Communist shellings on 13 and 14 November caused irregular battalions to abandon positions along Route 71 and at a nearby artillery site. Government commanders are attempting to regroup these forces south of Bouam Long.

With these two irregular forces in retreat, the North Vietnamese appear to be preparing for action against another irregular task force in the hills southwest of the Plaine. US pilots report that Route 54, the main Communist supply route into this area, has been repaired and could now support a Communist thrust in the sector. If the Communists should breach the government defenses southwest of the Plaine, they could then quickly move into the immediate Sam Thong area.

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EAST GERMANY: Pankow has resumed its ideological attack on West Germany's Social Democratic Party in an effort to underscore the limits the Communist regime intends to place on the normalization of relations.

The ideological campaign, muted during the recent inter-German treaty talks, flared up again as the negotiations ended. The treaty, if ratified and implemented, will mark a significant departure from East Germany's policy of isolation from West Germany, and Pankow is anxious to control the domestic impact and to preserve internal security. By stressing the inferiority of West German social democracy, Pankow is reminding its citizens that the advantages flowing to them from detente, such as increased travel to the West, are limited.

East German media have specifically denounced alleged Social Democratic efforts to influence the East German population and have emphasized the "unbridgeable differences" between East and West German societies. The criticism also hits the Social Democrats' alleged adherence to capitalistic doctrines and their corruption of the international socialist movement.

The campaign is also a defensive reaction to West German Chancellor Brandt's long-term objective of a united Germany. The Communists' ideological hostility toward Brandt's Social Democrats has been in evidence throughout the course of Ostpolitik, and it reflects in part the historic competition between the Communist and Social Democratic parties for the allegiance of German intellectuals and workers. As an East German ideologue recently put it, the leaders in Pankow do not believe their people wish to reinstate a Western, capitalist economic system; nevertheless, the Communists fear that the Social Democrats may some day establish in West Germany a modern democratic socialist state around which all Germans might wish to rally.

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The East German ideological attacks do not, however, reflect an intent to renege on the practical agreements with Bonn. The regime continues to praise the Brandt government for its constructive foreign policies and will continue to seek to do business with Bonn. [redacted]

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UGANDA: President Amin has received reports of two new plots against him, one by cabinet members and one by the military.

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It is unlikely that the cabinet is engaged in any serious plotting.

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members of the cabinet, frequently castigated by Amin for the country's ills, have been so cowed by the president that they have generally avoided doing anything that might run counter to his views.

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The army has long been troubled by tribal unrest aggravated by Amin's recruitment of large numbers of his fellow Kakwa tribesmen. Amin has attempted to placate his troops with more pay and other benefits and by ignoring their extortion of departing Asians, but the military is an increasingly uncertain prop for the regime.

Amin's moves against the Israelis and Asians have been popular with many Ugandans and this may encourage him to expel some UK and US citizens.

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The president's domestic credibility has suffered, however, as a result of his harsh repression of large numbers of Ugandans, including professional people, military personnel, civil servants, and tribal leaders suspected of opposing the regime. His popularity also may decline as the economic consequences of the Asian exodus are felt. [redacted]

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ROMANIA: The government is preparing the public for an extensive austerity campaign in the months ahead.

For the past few weeks, the press has urged efficient use of raw materials in manufacturing, better planning in the transport sector, and conservation of electricity and fuels. Campaigns like this have occurred in the past, but not with the same scope or intensity. Reports indicate that the government is informing the public of the measures in community meetings. Austerity measures, thus far, have been directed at the level of new construction. Only projects that increase the economy's productive capacity will be authorized, while construction of schools, hospitals, and cultural centers will be halted or postponed.

This belt-tightening apparently is the result of Romania's shortage of foreign exchange and President Ceausescu's inability to obtain the desired level of credit from the West. The mixed results of this year's harvest have reduced exportable surpluses, while the need to import capital goods is increasing. Production of oil has leveled off in recent years and Romania has had to import oil to meet its increasing domestic demand and foreign commitments.

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C HAITI: President Jean-Claude Duvalier ousted his most prominent cabinet minister late yesterday in the first major cabinet shuffle since taking office in April 1971.

Minister of Interior and National Defense Luckner Cambronne was replaced by a long-time Duvalier confidant, Roger Lafontant, formerly Haitian consul general in New York. The Secretary of State for Justice, Andre Rousseau, was also replaced.

While Cambronne is acknowledged to have played an important role in improving Haiti's reputation, his aggressive manner and greed earned him enemies both in and out of government. The President may have decided that Cambronne's expanding influence should be checked before it could seriously disrupt the 18-month old government.

Cambronne's removal apparently has not caused any immediate problems for the government. The atmosphere in the capital was described last night as calm, with no unusual activity.

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NOTES

USSR-SOMALIA: Moscow appears to have increased its military deliveries to Somalia. Two Soviet freighters have arrived in Mogadiscio this month with at least 15 100-mm. artillery pieces, vehicles, and two MIG-15 jets, the first fighter aircraft delivered to Somalia in two years. Other recent shipments have included one P-6 patrol boat, three helicopters, and armored personnel carriers.

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INDONESIA: Jakarta will request \$750 million in foreign assistance for the year ending in March 1974 at next month's meeting of the Indonesia aid consortium. The consortium consists of a number of major Western countries, Japan, and several international development organizations. The new aid requested is only about three percent more than Indonesia has been pledged under this year's program. This largely reflects the boom in export earnings which is enabling Indonesia to finance a growing share of its own foreign exchange needs. Sales of crude oil, for example, are expected to exceed \$1 billion next year as a result of higher world market prices and increasing production. The major portion of the aid--about \$380 million--will consist of project aid. Some \$160 million has been requested for food aid, and \$210 million for other assistance programs.

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